
May celebrations highlight the Texas EMS/Trauma System

From DSHS to the EMS and trauma community: Thanks for what you do! We celebrate EMS Week May 18-23 and Trauma Awareness Month in May. This issue we've highlighted a few people who were saved by quick medical intervention – and were eager to tell their stories. And saves are certainly one of the most dramatic ways to show how important EMS is to the community. Not as dramatic, but equally as important, are the thousands of routine EMS calls made every day across this big state. And even though not all calls have the best outcome, the EMS/trauma system was there. Many folks have stayed so long in this field not for financial rewards, but for the reward of helping people through difficult times. So please give yourself a pat on the back. You deserve it.

Dino-medics were called, and dino-medics responded! Several of those long-time medics (20 years or more) wrote me, including one man with 50 years of EMS experience! We will be running the profiles as long as people send them in. Look for all the profiles we've published on our website under the Texas EMS Magazine link on the left-hand side.

The 81st session of the Texas Legislature wraps up on June 2. At this point, we're not sure which of the bills filed in this session will pass and affect EMS and trauma systems. For a list of bills we are watching, go to our website and look under News/Features. We'll update the list as we get information. Click on any bill listed to see where in the process it is. The July/August issue of Texas EMS Magazine will carry a recap of all the EMS/trauma-related bills that passed and what you can expect.

We've got the line-up of preconference classes starting on page 16. Be sure to sign up early if there's one you'd like to take. New this year are three two-hour airway labs where attendees will get to practice on cadavers. We are quite lucky to be in such close proximity to such a fine lab facility. And it helps to have friends in Fort Worth!

Speaking of the conference, make your hotel reservations early. You can find a link to all the hotels on our website at www.dshs.state.tx.us/emstraumasystems/09Hotels.shtm. Click on the hotel you prefer and it will take you to a website built just for our conference – you'll be sure to get the low conference rates.

Finally, hope to see you at GETAC May 13-15 in Austin at the Omni Southpark. People at the GETAC meeting in February told us they were quite pleased with the Omni's facilities. We'll be there for the August meeting as well, and GETAC will meet at the Omni Fort Worth November 21-23.

FROM THIS SIDE



Kelly Harrell
Editor

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Kelly".